

missed his laurels. Among the nature students of four hundred years ago I know not who else is so far from accepting things on other people's guess or hearsay as Valerius Cordus; in whom I have not yet read a line that savors of the fabulous or superstitious; and that, for the period, is much to say of any author."

In face of the erroneous and more or less superstitious notions as to the reproduction of ferns that were then current even among the best-educated, Cordus boldly ventures the following in regard to the trichomanes fern:

"It grows copiously on moist shaded rocks, although it produces no stem, or flower or seed. But it reproduces itself by means of the dust that is developed on the back of the leaves, as do all kinds of ferns; and let this statement of the fact once for all suffice."

And the following paragraph from Dr. Greene's work, relating to one of the observations made by this clear-seeing and clear-thinking German youth, who died as long ago as 1544, will be of historical interest to many economic botanists of the present day:

"The plant physiologist of to-day, interested in the functions of the root tubercles of leguminous plants may find in Valerius Cordus the earliest mention of these organs. I do not find him taking note of them except as occurring in the cultivated lupine of Europe. Accustomed to give a full account of every kind of root, even to its medicinal usefulness or uselessness, he says of that of the lupine that it is 'slender, woody, white and without useful properties, parted into a few slender fibers upon which there sometimes grow small tubercles.'"

Part I. of Dr. Greene's "Landmarks" covers a most interesting and hitherto inadequately treated period in the history of botany. The work will be needed by all libraries that contain Julius von Sachs' well-known history and by all botanists who feel an interest in the recorded beginnings of their science.

MARSHALL A. HOWE

FIELD MEETINGS FOR 1910

In the *American Naturalist* for January, 1899, Dr. Arthur Hollick has pointed out the great influence of the geological formation on the forest conditions of New Jersey. All the territory

to the north of a line stretching from Perth Amboy to Trenton is predominately of deciduous trees, mostly of northern extraction and affinities. South of the line from Long Branch to Salem (roughly the pine-barren country) the forest is predominately coniferous. The region between these he has called the tension zone, from the fact that the trees of each opposing zone are in this middle zone apparently striving for predominance. Some of the field meetings this summer will be held with a view to ascertaining how far Dr. Hollick's observations obtain among the rest of the vegetation in this region. An effort will be made to extend the range of some of the typically southern or coniferous plants northward, and to trace the migratory tendencies of the northern plants southward. Observations will be made also on plants with apparently no very definite habitat preference.

The meeting of Saturday, August 13, will be in the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden and will consist of a lecture at 4:00 P. M. by Mr. Norman Taylor on "Influences which Govern Local Distribution of Plants." This will deal with the above and similar ecologic problems.

August 20. Monmouth Junction, N. J. Train leaves Hudson Terminal Station (Penna. R. R.) at 9:35 A. M. Cost of trip about \$2.00. This is at the edge of the deciduous zone and the adjoining tension zone.

August 27. Runyan, N. J. Train leaves Hudson Terminal Station (Penna.) at 9:05 A. M. Returning train leaves at 5:57 P. M. Cost of trip about \$1.50. This is directly in the middle of the tension zone.

September 3. Freehold, N. J. A seven-mile walk is planned which will extend from Freehold to Farmingdale crossing from the tension to the coniferous zone during the walk. Train leaves Liberty Street (Central R. R. N. J.) at 8:30 A. M. Return train from Farmingdale leaves at 3:56 P. M. Cost of trip about \$2.75.

September 10. Windsor, N. J. Train leaves Hudson Terminal Station (Penna. R. R.) at 9:05 A. M. Returning train at 5:03. Cost of the trip about \$2.00. This is in the middle of the tension zone, but further down than Runyan.

The chairman of the field committee will act as guide on all

the above trips and in each case will meet party at destination. Other trips have been planned as follows:

September 17. Arlington, N. J. Train leaves Hudson Terminal Station (Erie R. R.) at 12:45 P. M. Return as desired. Cost of trip about 30 cents. Guide, Mr. O. P. Medsger.

September 24. Mt. Hope, N. Y. Train leaves 155th Street and Eighth Ave. (Putnam Division, N. Y. Central) at 9:15 A. M. Returning trains leave at 4.14 and 6.02 P. M. Cost of trip about 50 cents. Guide, Mr. Chas. VanLoan.

October 1. Special excursion for mosses to Alpine, N. J. Party will take the one o'clock boat from Peene's wharf, Yonkers, N. Y. Cost of trip about 30 cents. Guide, Mr. Williams.

October 8. West Orange, N. J. via Orange. Train leaves West 23rd St. (D. L. & W. R. R.) at 9:10 A. M. Thence as directed by the guide, Mr. Wilson.

October 15. Special excursion for asters to Wakefield, N. Y. City. Party will meet at the terminal of the Third Avenue elevated at 1:00 P. M., where they will be met by the guide, Dr. Rydberg.

Members of the club are urged to verify the train times given above. In case of change it is understood that the train leaving nearest the advertised time will be the one used.

The Field Committee,
NORMAN TAYLOR,
Chairman

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MAY 10, 1910

The meeting was called to order at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:25 P. M. Mr. E. B. Southwick occupied the chair. The attendance was twenty-four. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting, Mr. Norman Taylor spoke on "Native Trees of the Hudson Valley." The following abstract was prepared by the speaker.

"There are about 125 different kinds of trees in the area. Excluding highly technical and little known species, and those